Import of gas

4267. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) transnational gas pipeline;

(b) if so, whether any date has been fixed for holding discussions amongst the participating countries to resolve issues pertaining to Iran-Pakistan-India Gas Pipeline Projects as desired by the Parliament Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas in its 14th report;

(c) whether the Cabinet has so far accorded an "in principle" approval to the proposal for joining the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS *(SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL)*: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Discussions on various important issues concerning the Project are underway amongst the participating countries. A Ministerial-level bilateral meeting between India and Pakistan has been held on April 25, 2008 in Islamabad, wherein discussions were held on the pending bilateral issues concerning the Project.

(c) and (d) The Cabinet in the meeting held on 18th May 2006, accorded 'in principle' approval to the proposal for India joining the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) Project.

Losses due to leakage/corrosion in pipelines

4268. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of loss of petroleum products due to leakage and corrosion in the pipelines carrying petroleum products;

(b) the details of the measures that are taken by the companies for prevention of leakage and corrosion;

(c) whether these measures are sufficient and latest ones;

(d) whether these measures require improvement and whether the prices of petroleum products can not be reduced by means of these improvements; and

(e) if so, whether the proposal for said improvements is being considered and by when the decision would be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The loss of petroleum products due to leakage and corrosion in the pipeline carrying petroleum products is negligible.

Adequate measures are adopted by Oil Companies to prevent leakage and corrosion in the pipelines, such as:

- Periodic inspection & maintenance of pipeline and associated equipment.

- Use of high quality piping material, anti-corrosion coating and insulation.
- Use of Impressed Current Cathodic Protection system to prevent external corrosion of underground pipelines.
- Use of corrosion inhibitor for preventing internal corrosion of the pipeline and its monitoring.
- Carrying out periodic statutory health check-up of the pipeline in line with the standards.
- Carrying out Intelligent Pigging Survey for assessment of internal profile of pipelines.
- Replacement of old/damaged pipelines.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Measures adopted to prevent leakage and corrosion in pipelines are latest in line with the internationally accepted practices. Cost implication on petroleum products due to loss on account of leakage and corrosion is negligible and has insignificant impact on product pricing.

Refinery projects in Eleventh Plan

4269. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set-up new refineries and to increase the existing refining capacity of the refineries during the Eleventh Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assessment has been made in regard to likely effect on prices of petroleum products in domestic market due to the setting up of new refineries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) The refinery sector was delicensed in June, 1998. Since then a refinery can be set up anywhere in India by private or public sector enterprises depending on the promoters' assessment of its viability. It is not the Central Government but public and private sector enterprises who consider proposals for setting up of refineries.

Companies in both public and private sector, have proposed to set up new refineries/ increase the capacity of existing refineries. Company-wise details of the location, capacity/ increase in capacity of the refineries are given in the Statement. (*See* below).

(c) and (d) New refining capacity is likely to have favourable impact on prices as supply of petroleum products will increase. In addition, new capacity will boost export earnings from export of petroleum products through retention of value addition, and will further enhance energy security of the country.